THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The Department of Consumer Affairs administers the following regulatory Acts:-

- The Consumer Protection Act, 1986;
- The Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976;
- The Standards of Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1985;
- The Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986;
- The Essential Commodities Act, 1955;
- The Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980;
- The Forward Contract (Regulation) Act, 1952;
- The Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950;
- The Spirituous Preparation (Inter-State Trade and Commerce) Control Act, 1955;

All the above Acts are for promotion of consumer interest. In addition, the Department has initiated a number of steps to promote a responsible and responsive consumer movement in the country. Such measures include the use of multi-media for promoting consumer awareness and encouraging consumer's involvement through efforts of Government and non-Government organizations and others.

Fund for consumer advocacy activities

1085. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether most regulatory laws in India have provisions for a fund to promote the purpose and object of the law but this has never been used to support consumer advocacy activities; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to make the fund operational for consumer engagement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The Department of Consumer Affairs administer the following Acts:

- The Consumer Protection Act, 1986;
- The Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976;
- The Standards of Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1985;

- The Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986;
- The Essential Commodities Act, 1955;
- The Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980;
- The Forward Contract (Regulation) Act, 1952;
- The Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950;
- The Spirituous Preparation (Inter-State Trade and Commerce) Control Act, 1955.

No fund has been created under any of these Acts to promote the purpose and objects of the law.

(b) Does not arise.

M/s Mc Kinsey and Co. report on FCI

1086. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s Mc Kinsey and Co. has recommended that FCI should outsource its key operations like foodgrain procurement, handling, transportation and distribution as a part of its restructuring plan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that once the above operations are outsourced, FCI will be reduced for storage of buffer stocks for PDS;

(c) whether it will entail reduction of 8000 to 10000 staff if the report of the M/s Mc Kinsey and Co. is implemented;

(d) whether Government have studied the report;

(e) if so, the decision taken on the recommendations; and

(f) the details of other major recommendations made by the M/s Mc Kinsey and Co.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) M/s Mc Kinsey and Co. in their Report has recommended several measures for improving the operational efficiency of the FCI, including, *inter alia*, outsourcing of some activities.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The report suggests rationalization of staffing levels based on revised norms.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The recommendations made are at various stages of implementation.